

IMPLEMENTATION AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

AND

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC

AND

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

**ON THE SUB-REGIONAL MARINE OIL POLLUTION CONTINGENCY PLAN
pursuant to the Protocol concerning Cooperation in Preventing Pollution from
Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating pollution of the Mediterranean
Sea to the Barcelona Convention.**

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS, THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF
ISRAEL

Being represented respectively for the purposes of this Implementation Agreement by the Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, the Alternate Minister of Environment and Energy of the Government of the Hellenic Republic and the Minister of Environmental Protection of the Government of the State of Israel

Hereinafter referred to as the "Parties"

Being Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean, adopted in 1976 and amended and renamed in 1995 (hereinafter referred to as the Barcelona Convention), and to its Protocol concerning Co-operation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in case of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea, adopted in 2002 and replacing the related Protocol of 1976 (hereinafter referred to as the Prevention and Emergency Protocol);

Taking note of the "Joint Declaration of Intent on Cooperation in the Field of Environmental Protection" signed on 6 April 2016 by their respective Ministers responsible for the environment, which identifies in particular preparedness for and response to major marine pollution incidents in the Mediterranean, resulting from ships, offshore hydrocarbon (oil and gas) exploration and exploitation activities and hydrocarbon pipelines as the first priority area in which the three countries intend to advance their cooperation;

Recognizing that the Mediterranean in general, and its eastern part in particular, being a major route for transporting oil and the area of ever more intensive offshore oil and gas exploration and exploitation activities and development of pipelines, are exposed to increasingly high risk of marine oil pollution, thus necessitating constant efforts in organizing and preparing response to marine oil pollution incidents at national, sub-regional and regional levels;

Considering that bilateral and multilateral sub-regional agreements, specifying in advance operational arrangements, administrative and logistic requirements and financial conditions for cooperation in cases of emergency, are necessary for a prompt and efficient response to marine pollution incidents at sub-regional level;

Noting that the existence of national capabilities for responding to marine oil pollution incidents, including national contingency plans, pollution response equipment and trained personnel, is an indispensable prerequisite for the efficient regional cooperation and mutual assistance;

Acknowledging that in the event of a marine oil pollution incident, prompt and effective action is essential in order to minimise the damage which may result from such an incident;

Bearing in mind Article 9 of the Barcelona Convention and Article 4(1) of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol which *inter alia* stipulates that "Parties shall endeavour to maintain and promote, either individually or through bilateral or multilateral cooperation, contingency plans and other means of preventing and combating pollution incidents";

Bearing in mind Article 17 of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol concerning bilateral or multilateral sub-regional agreements for preparedness for and response to pollution incidents;

Acknowledging the positive role that the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (hereinafter referred to as REMPEC) in its capacity of the Regional Centre as defined in Article 1 of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol plays in promoting regional and sub-regional cooperation in preparedness for and response to marine pollution incidents in the Mediterranean region;

HAVE AGREED as follows:

Article 1

Objective

1. The Parties agree to adopt, within the framework of the Barcelona Convention and its Prevention and Emergency Protocol, a **SUB-REGIONAL MARINE OIL POLLUTION CONTINGENCY PLAN**, between them including its Annexes, (hereinafter referred to as "the Plan", which is attached to this Implementation Agreement and forms an integral part thereof) as a mechanism for mutual assistance and cooperation in responding to major marine oil pollution incidents affecting or likely to affect their respective territorial sea, coasts and related interests;
2. The Parties agree to use their best endeavours to render assistance to any Party to this Implementation Agreement which might request assistance in case of marine oil pollution incident, bearing in mind that nothing in the Plan precludes the right of a Party, whose territorial sea or related interests are likely to be affected, to request assistance from other States or Organizations;

Article 2

Designated Authorities

The Parties agree to designate the following authorities as their respective national authorities responsible for the implementation of the Plan and its amendments, as well as for ensuring compatibility of the Plan with their respective National Contingency Plans:

for the Republic of Cyprus:	Department of Fisheries and Marine Research Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment
for the Hellenic Republic:	Marine Environment Protection Directorate, Hellenic Coast Guard, Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy
for the State of Israel:	Marine Environment Protection Division, Ministry of Environmental Protection

Article 3

Accession to the Implementation Agreement by other Parties

Other Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Prevention and Emergency Protocol, in the sub-region, may join this Implementation Agreement subject to the written consent of the Parties to the Implementation Agreement;

Article 4

Obligations of the Parties arising from Membership to the European Union

The present Implementation Agreement does not affect rights and obligations of the Parties that are Member States of the European Union arising from their membership thereto;

Article 5

Entry into effect of the Implementation Agreement

The present Implementation Agreement shall be subject to approval or ratification by each Party, as required in accordance with its relevant internal procedures. The Implementation Agreement and the Plan shall be effective and enter into effect thirty days after the date of the deposit of the third instrument of approval or ratification, or of a letter of notification to the Depository informing that the relevant internal procedures have been accomplished;

Article 6

Depository of the Implementation Agreement

The Government of Cyprus shall be the Depository of this Implementation Agreement and modifications thereto;

Article 7

Modifications to the Implementation Agreement

1. The present Implementation Agreement may be modified upon request made by any Party by mutual written consent of all three Parties;
2. Any such modifications as well as any modifications or revisions to the Plan, except those referred to in Section 6.6 of the Plan, shall be effective and enter into effect according to the procedure set forth in Article 5 of the present Implementation Agreement;


Article 8

Notifications

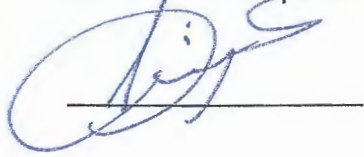
Each Party shall notify REMPEC of its approval, entry into effect or ratification of this Implementation Agreement or any subsequent modifications thereto, in conformity with Article 7.3 of the **Protocol concerning Cooperation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency Combating pollution of the Mediterranean Sea to the Barcelona Convention.**

DONE AT Nicosia, on this 8th day of May 2018, which corresponds to the 23rd of IYYAR, 5778, in the Hebrew Calendar, in three original copies in the English language.

For the Government of
the Republic of Cyprus



For the Government of
the Hellenic Republic



For the Government of
the State of Israel

